

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: [Isaiah 59:1-9](#); Jn. 9:31; Ac. 10:1-2.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (10-24-93).
- C. When I was growing up I heard a preacher on the radio telling sinners to "fall down before your radio and pray to God and He will forgive your sins."
 - 1. Neighbors talked about the "mourner's bench" and "praying through" to salvation.
 - 2. Some said that one had to have a "miraculous experience" to prove that they were saved before they could be baptized.
 - 3. I have studied the NT and have not found these instructions for the sinner who is not a Christian.
- D. Tonight, we want to study what the Bible says about sinners and prayer.
 - 1. There are some whose prayers God will not hear.
 - 2. There are some whose prayers God will hear.
 - 3. For what should a sinner pray?

I. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHOSE PRAYERS GOD WILL NOT HEAR.

- A. God will not hear the prayers of those who refuse to hear His law (Prov. 28:9).
- B. He will not accept those with iniquity in their hearts (Psa. 66:18).
- C. The Jewish leaders did not argue with the statement that God does not hear sinners (Jn. 9:31).
- D. God will not hear those who practice evil (1Pet. 3:12).

II. GOD WILL HEAR THE PRAYERS OF SOME.

- A. He will hear the prayers of the righteous (1Pet. 3:12).
- B. He hears the prayers of those who worship God and do His will (Jn. 9:31).
- C. He hears the prayers of the obedient (1Jn. 3:22).

III. FOR WHAT SHOULD A SINNER PRAY?

- A. Should the sinner pray:
 - 1. For God to love him? No, He already does (Jn. 3:16).
 - 2. For repentance? No, the goodness of God brings that (Rom. 2:4).
 - 3. For light and understanding? No, the word of God already gives him that (Psa. 119:130).
- D. The sinner should not pray:
 - 1. For God to give him the Spirit because God promises that to those who obey Him (Ac. 5:32).
 - 2. For Christ to "come down and save him" because X has already told the sinner to "come unto Me..." (Mt. 11:28-30).
 - 3. For God to "come down and be reconciled to him" because Paul says that sinners must be reconciled to God (2Cor. 5:20).
 - 4. For God's grace, because it has been offered to all men (Ti. 2:11-12).
 - 5. For the Lord to convert him, when the word of God does that, if he will accept it (Psa. 19:9; Ac. 3:19; 2Th. 2:14).
 - 6. For faith, because the word gives that (Rom. 10:17).
 - 7. For salvation, because Jesus has already offered salvation and tells us how to receive it (Mk. 16:15-16).
 - 8. For the new birth because it comes through obedience to God's word (1Pet. 1:22-23).
 - 9. For God's saving power, because the gospel is that power (Rom. 1:16).
 - 10. For God to accept him if he is not doing what God commands (Ac. 10:35).
 - 11. For sanctification, because the word does that (Jn. 17:17).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. No sinner who is not a child of God is ever told to pray.
- B. Everything that sinners are told to pray for is offered when they obey the word of God.
- C. Those who think that they "got religion" need to "get understanding." Instead of "what should a sinner pray?" it should be "what should a sinner do?"
- D. One answer that I would give, however, is that a sinner should pray that they will do the right thing as directed by the word of God.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.